

application of a wide variety of apposite research techniques, adapted for specific purposes.

The work reported can be seen not only in historical perspective but an overall picture emerges of the inter-relatedness of diverse aspects of clinical and academic work. The candidate for higher examinations should read this book. Its extensive canvas and the references provided will enrich and deepen his knowledge. Not only do the essays present the reader with much factual information but they provoke constructive thought. The book is indeed a fitting tribute to the man in whose honour it was written.

J.G.G.

SEX AND ITS PROBLEMS. Edited by W. A. R. Thompson. (Pp. 90. 15s).
Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1968.

THIS book comprises a series of articles published in 'The Practitioner' throughout 1967. They were written with the family doctor particularly in mind, but they could well be of interest to a wider readership.

The need for medical students to be more conversant with the diagnosis and treatment of sexual disorders has been emphasised in recent years. A knowledge of the psychology of young people should help students to understand sexual disturbances in their proper perspective, indicating as they so often do, much more widespread problems of adjustment. Sexual behaviour is not an isolated phenomenon, bearing little or no relationship to the total personality, but an integral part of it. Disorders in the one may be reflected in disturbances in the other, and vice versa.

It is against this total background that the material discussed in this book should be considered. The first chapter deals with physical disorders, including congenital adrenal hyperplasia, eunuchoidism and primary amenorrhoea. The second chapter is devoted largely to a detailed consideration of intersexuality. This is a very useful summary of the differential diagnostic problems that can arise and of associated chromosomal anomalies. The third chapter dealing with sexual problems of adolescence is straightforward and succinct. It will be of much value to general practitioners for its clarity and direct approach. The psychological aspects of sexual problems in other age groups are dealt with too. In addition there are chapters on homosexuality and perversions. Other topics include impotence and frigidity, infertility and artificial insemination.

This book can be commended especially to medical students and general practitioners. In the reviewer's opinion its value would have been enhanced by a chapter dealing with the range of normal sexual behaviour in different age groups. Such information would be useful to the doctor in dealing with some of the less complicated problems he may see in his work.

J.G.G.

OTHER DAYS AROUND ME. By Florence Mary McDowell. (Pp. 163; illustrations by Rowel Friers. 8s 6d). Dublin: Longmans, Browne & Nolan, 1966.

THIS little book is not really little. It is an important contribution to Ulster literature and social history. An extremely intelligent and perceptive person has observed and understood and interpreted the life of the people of Cogry and Doagh and the district in the late nineteenth century. The medical man will be interested in the account of practical nutrition, and even more interested in the account of flax byssinosis in the scutch mill. Mrs. McDowell describes occupational deafness in the workers in the beetling engines, and, even more remarkable, she describes her Aunt Laetitia's Plummer-Vinson stricture. One has been accustomed to teach that the Plummer-Vinson stricture is unusually common in the valley of the Six-Mile Water, and it is appropriate that this account, the first in general literature, should come from there. Mrs. McDowell describes the features of this dysphagia better than most text books.

Your reviewer is sorry to say that the book is so insightful that it could hardly have been written by a man. It recalls the work of Agnes White and Kathleen Fitzpatrick. The work of the Ulster kailyard school (e.g. Archibald M'Iloy's—'The Auld Meetin' Hoose Green') is valuable as a record, and dear to those who know the North, but this work goes deeper. The Ulster Medical Journal congratulates Mrs. McDowell on the life of observation which has come to harvest in this book.

J.S.L.